

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE), RO

SUBJECT: PUNGAN MEETING WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL DOBELLE,
FEBRUARY 14

1. SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR VASILE PUNGAN AND AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CALLED ON CHIEF OF PROTOCOL DOBELLE TO REVIEW PREPARATIONS FOR PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IN APRIL. DOBELLE REVIEWED WITH PUNGAN TENTATIVE ITINERARIES THAT THE OFFICE OF PROTOCOL HAD BEEN WORKING OUT FOR THE CEAUSESCU VISIT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY. THESE INCLUDE STOPS IN MINNEAPOLIS (CONTROL DATA CORPORATION), DALLAS AND/OR HOUSTON (NASA, SHELL RESEARCH LABORATORIES, MEETINGS WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS), NEW ORLEANS (OFFSHORE OIL), AND POSSIBLE STOPS IN OTHER SOUTHERN CITIES, WITH A FINAL STOP IN NEW YORK CITY.

2. PUNGAN SUGGESTED THAT WE INCLUDE A VISIT TO A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND TO TEXAS INSTRUMENTS IN DALLAS. AMB. NICOLAE SUGGESTED A VISIT TO A PLANT MANUFACTURING NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS COMBUSTION ENGINEERING. IT WAS AGREED THAT SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE ITINERARIES WOULD BE PREPARED AND PASSED TO AMB. NICOLAE, WHO WILL GIVE THEM TO PUNGAN BEFORE THE LATTER DEPARTS FROM NEW YORK FOR BUCHAREST. WE WILL ALSO ASK PUNGAN AS A COURTESY TO CARRY AN EXTRA SET TO BUCHAREST FOR AMB. AGGREY, WHICH WE HOPE

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WILL PROVIDE THE AMBASSADOR WITH ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE CEAUSESCU VISIT WITH PUNGAN.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE WASHINGTON PORTION OF THE VISIT, IT WAS AGREED THAT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU WILL PROBABLY PREFER TO SPEND HIS FIRST NIGHT AT BLAIR HOUSE, ARRIVING IN THE AFTERNOON OR EVENING OF APRIL 11. IF THE VISIT FOLLOWS STANDARD PRACTICE, THERE WOULD BE AN ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT 10.30 A.M. APRIL 12, FOLLOWED BY AN 11 A.M. MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, A LUNCHEON AT 1 P.M. HOSTED BY SECRETARY VANCE, AND A STATE DINNER HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT AT 7 P.M. ON APRIL 13, THERE WOULD BE A SECOND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, PROBABLY AT 10 A.M. THE REMAINDER OF THE TIME WOULD BE FREE FOR MEETINGS AT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S DISCRETION. FOR MRS. CEAUSESCU, DOBELLE SUGGESTED THERE MIGHT BE A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY MRS. VANCE ON THE FIRST DAY AND PERHAPS A CALL ON MRS. CARTER ON THE SECOND DAY. PUNGAN SAID THAT MRS. CEAUSESCU IS A CHEMIST AND A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND SHE MIGHT WISH TO HAVE SOME INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH SCIENTIFIC COLLEAGUES. AMB. NICOLAE SUGGESTED SHE MIGHT WISH TO VISIT THE AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH PUNGAN'S SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CEAUSESCU VISIT WERE NOT AT THIS STAGE VERY SPECIFIC, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT WITH HIS PERSONAL ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CEAUSESCU, HE MAY BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO HELP US WORK OUT AN AGREED ITINERARY THAT HAS CEAUSESCU'S PERSONAL APPROVAL. WE WISH TO AVOID LAST-MINUTE ITINERARY CHANGES SUCH AS OCCURRED IN 1973, WHICH TEND TO MAR THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE VISIT. THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROLIFIC IN MAKING SUGGESTIONS, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THESE ARE SELF-INITIATED OR IN RESPONSE TO HIGH-LEVEL GUIDANCE FROM BUCHAREST. EMBASSY COUNSELOR GHEORGHE IONITA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY AMB. NICOLAE AS OUR CONTACT FOR TRIP PLANNING BUT WE DO NOT FIND THE ARRANGEMENT TOTALLY SATISFACTORY, SINCE IONITA TENDS TO LOAD UP THE SCHEDULE WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF VISITS TO PLANTS AND FACTORIES. IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS A GUIDE, WE WILL SOON NEED A HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT IN BUCHAREST, WITH ACCESS TO CEAUSESCU AND WITH A COMPREHENSIVE GRASP OF U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, IN ORDER TO WORK OUT BOTH THE SUBSTANTIVE AND PROTOCOL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. IDEALLY, WE AND THE GOR WOULD AGREE THAT PLANNING BE DONE THROUGH THIS SINGLE CHANNEL, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD AGREE TO KEEP THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY INFORMED. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, WOULD PUNGAN BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE CONTACT, OR WOULD OTHER PRESSURES ON HIS TIME LEAD US TO PREFER

SOMEONE ELSE SUCH AS FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU?

5. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ROMANIANS HERE HAVE REFERRED TO A GOR ADVANCE TEAM THAT WOULD COME TO WASHINGTON BEFORE THE CEAUSESCU VISIT. THE IMPLICATION HAS BEEN THAT THIS GOR TEAM WOULD ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE AS WELL AS PROTOCOL/LOGISTICS/SECURITY PREPARATIONS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT YOU CAN SHED ON MAKEUP OF THIS TEAM AND ITS FUNCTION. VANCE

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